

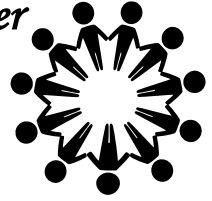
*Centennial United Church, Stayner*

*Sunday April 12, 2026 10:30am*

*Holy Humour Sunday*

*Worship Leader: Jennifer Irving*

*Musical Accompanists: Megan Arksey*



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**To Ponder:** *“Humor is a prelude to faith and laughter is the beginning of prayer.”*

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

## *Joyful Gathering*

**Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**

**Sharing the Life & Work of the Church and Our Joys & Concerns**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship & Opening Prayer**

One: Come into this space for Holy Humour Sunday.

**ALL: Are you declaring that we are allowed to laugh?**

One: Absolutely!

We need a sense of humour as part of life’s balance.

**ALL: We are free to giggle at life’s contradictions?**

One: Indeed, since we are created in God’s image,

humour is woven into the very fabric of our being.

**ALL: Then let’s get on with it. Let’s embrace irony and grin wryly at life’s foibles because of our faith.**

One: Let us pray:

**ALL: Loving God, we often despair at the world’s complexity. We long for simpler times, and yet we rely on unfathomable technology. Open our hearts for your joy—a joy that bubbles into life by the Spirit’s movement. Amen**

*Written by Gord Dunbar, Gathering L/E 2026, Used with permission.*

**Opening Hymn VU 166 “Joy Comes With the Dawn”**

## *God’s Word of Joy*

**Time of Wondering**

**Hymn VU 820 “Make a Joyful Noise”**

Scripture Readings: Genesis 18:1-15 Sarah Laughs

John 20:19-31 Jesus Appears—Joyous Doubt

Reflection

*Sharing our Joy*

Hymn VU 624 “Give to Us Laughter”

Stories of Joyful Generosity & An Invitation to Giving

Offertory Hymn VU 541 “Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow”

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

*Joyfully Going Forth*

Closing Hymn VU 232 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You”

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Sending Forth TLUS 103 “Bambelela”

*Bambelela! Bambelela, O Bambelela, Bambelela*

*Bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba, Ohhh*

*Bamba, bambelela!*

*Never Give Up! Never give up, O Never give up, Never give up*

*Never, never, never, never, never, Ohhh*

*Never, Never Give Up!*

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*Today's bulletin is sponsored by*

*Marilyn and Lloyd Somerville in memory of*

*Danny Hudson, Lloyd's little brother, who passed away March 29, 1994*

*at the age of 19 from cancer.*

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning online & in person.*

*Music & Live-Streaming license OneLicense #730030-A*

*Thank you to Norm and Joan Soules for reading today*

*Thank you to Neelah Irving for her technical assistance.*

## **Our Land Acknowledgement Statement**

We acknowledge with respect and with awe the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Tionontati and Wendat peoples with whom Treaty 18 of 1818 were signed and the territory wherein our church resides, and our responsibility as Treaty members. We also honour the heritage and gifts of Métis people. May we live appreciating the gifts of this land we share with wonder and gratitude and may we live in peace and friendship with all its people.

## **CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH**

234 William Street, Stayner, ON L0M 1S0

Website ~ [www.ucstayner.ca](http://www.ucstayner.ca)

YouTube Channel ~ [Centennial United Stayner](#)

Facebook Page ~ [Centennial United Church –Stayner](#)

### **Minister: Reverend Jennifer Irving**

home: 705-517-0130 cell: 1-306-327-7776

email: [jennifer@ucstayner.ca](mailto:jennifer@ucstayner.ca)

Office Hours: variable or by appointment

### **Administrator: Pat Elson**

email ~ [office@ucstayner.ca](mailto:office@ucstayner.ca) phone: 705-428-3711

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00am-1pm

**On-Line & In Person Worship: Sundays: 10:30am**

*Zoom: 862 4551 6433 pwd: WORSHIP*

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# LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

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*\*Worship in person or on Zoom: 862 4551 6433 pwd: WORSHIP*

We welcome you to worship in our Sanctuary and thank you for not wearing scented products to church for those who are scent sensitive

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone that delivered Easter cards and had a visit with our members who can't make it to church! You are a gift to them as well as to Centennial United Church! If anyone knows of anyone that could use a card to brighten their day, please let Valerie Willock know (705-422-1201). If anyone has extra stamps we can always use them!

**ITS SPRING(!)** tho at times you may not know it! We will be gearing up soon for our Spring Fish Dinner. Your support of this important fundraiser for our church is appreciated. More details to follow – stay tuned!

**CALLING READERS FOR APRIL AND MAY!** See sheets at the back of the church for reading scripture and the M&S Stories, as well as bulletin sponsorship.

**SIP 'n' SERVE** Join us Monday mornings at 9:00 AM. All cleaners are rewarded with coffee and conversation!

**LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY HOUR** Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00am

**CENTENNIAL CHOIR PRACTICE** Tuesday Evenings at 7:00pm. All are welcome as we go over hymns for Sunday and learn special music to add to our worship services.

**CLEARVIEW COMMUNITY CHOIR PRACTICES** Thursdays at 7:00pm. Join us in the sanctuary to be a part of this mass ecumenical choir under the leadership of Liz Kraan and Karen Endicott with Megan Arksey at the piano as we prepare for the Community Choir Concert, on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**SPRING CLOTHING SWAP** Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1pm A wonderful opportunity to supplement your closet for summer and keep clothing out of the landfill. Clothes in good condition will be accepted starting April 13<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers to sort and set up are always welcome!

**SATURDAY APRIL 18** kick off your morning with a Pancake Breakfast, 8 AM – 1 PM at the Sunnidale Corners Community Centre. Hungry Man \$15, Adult \$12, Children 10 & under \$5. Preschoolers free.

**CENTENNIAL WOMEN MEETING April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm** Centennial Women meet at 7:30 PM at the church. Myrna Whitley will be speaking about regenerative grazing. All welcome!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25 4:30 PM – 7 PM** St. John's United in Creemore hosts a Beef and Lamb Dinner. Adults are \$ 25, children 6-12 \$ 15 and five and under free.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26** New Lowell United Church hosts a ham and scalloped potatoes dinner. Dine in or take out. Take out pickups at 5:30 PM, Dine in at 6 PM. Advance tickets only. Cost is \$ 20. Please call 705-424-1476.

**MONDAY APRIL 27 10 AM – 2:30 PM the UCW of WOW Region** invites you to their Annual General Meeting "Rooted in Faith" at Annesly United Church in Markdale. Preregistration by April 23 required (email [ucw.wow@gmail.com](mailto:ucw.wow@gmail.com) or call Margot 519-404-2165). Interested in carpooling? Contact Jennifer.

**TOWARDS 2035 TOWNHALL.** Join conversations to talk about what Towards 2035 means in your local context, and what resources might be needed. Townhalls take place **Wednesday, April 29, 7 – 8:30 PM, Wednesday May 6 7 – 8:30 PM, Tuesday, May 12 1:30 – 3 PM.** Register now for the time that suits you! <https://forms.office.com/r/ZjvMB4TVKL>. If you need help registering contact Pat.

**SUNDAY MAY 10** Centennial hosts a Mother's Day Spring Community concert at 7 PM, sponsored by the Clearview Ministerial. Community Choir practice begins Thursday, April 9 at 7 PM at Centennial.

**This week's regional prayers** are for Shallow Lake United Church. Shallow Lake is northwest of Owen Sound. You can learn more about Shallow Lake United here <https://www.shallowlakeunitedchurch.ca/>.